

AN ACT

relating to eligibility requirements for the tuition equalization grant program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Sections 61.2251(b), (c), and (e), Education Code, as added by Chapter 1230 (H.B. 1172), Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, are amended to read as follows:

(b) To be eligible for a tuition equalization grant in the first academic year in which the person receives the grant, a person must:

(1) be a Texas resident as defined by the coordinating board and meet, at a minimum, the resident requirements defined by law for Texas resident tuition in fully state-supported institutions of higher education;

(2) be enrolled in at least three-fourths of ~~for~~ a full course load conforming to an individual degree plan in an approved college or university;

(3) be required to pay more tuition than is required at a public college or university and be charged no less than the regular tuition required of all students enrolled at the institution;

(4) establish financial need in accordance with procedures and regulations of the coordinating board;

(5) not be a recipient of any form of athletic

1 scholarship; ~~and~~

2 (6) make satisfactory academic progress toward a  
3 degree or certificate as determined by the institution at which the  
4 person is enrolled; and

5 (7) have complied with other requirements adopted by  
6 the coordinating board under this subchapter.

7 (c) After qualifying for a tuition equalization grant under  
8 Subsection (b), a person may receive a tuition equalization grant  
9 in a subsequent academic year in which the person is enrolled at an  
10 approved institution only if the person:

11 (1) meets the requirements of Subsection (b);

12 (2) completed at least:

13 (A) 24 semester credit hours in the person's most  
14 recent full academic year, if the person is enrolled in an  
15 undergraduate degree or certificate program; or

16 (B) 18 semester credit hours in the person's most  
17 recent full academic year, if the person is enrolled in a graduate  
18 or professional degree program; and

19 (3) has earned an overall grade point average of at  
20 least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on coursework  
21 previously attempted at public or private institutions of higher  
22 education.

23 (e) The coordinating board shall adopt rules to allow a  
24 person who is otherwise eligible to receive a tuition equalization  
25 grant, in the event of a hardship or for other good cause shown, to  
26 receive a tuition equalization grant if the person does not:

27 (1) make satisfactory academic progress as required

1 under Subsection (b)(6);

2           (2) complete the semester credit hours required by  
3 Subsection (c)(2);

4           (3) [~~(2)~~] maintain the grade point average required by  
5 Subsection (c)(3); or

6           (4) [~~(3)~~] complete the person's certificate or degree  
7 program within the period prescribed by Subsection (d).

8           SECTION 2. (a) The changes in law made by this Act to  
9 Section 61.2251, Education Code, apply beginning with tuition  
10 equalization grants awarded for the 2009-2010 academic year. For  
11 that purpose, a person's eligibility for a grant under Section  
12 61.2251(c), Education Code, as amended by this Act, for the  
13 2009-2010 academic year shall be based on the person's satisfaction  
14 of the requirements of Section 61.2251(c), as amended, in the  
15 2008-2009 academic year, without regard to whether the person  
16 satisfied the former requirements of Section 61.2251(c) or received  
17 a grant under Subchapter F, Chapter 61, Education Code, in that  
18 academic year.

19           (b) A tuition equalization grant awarded for an academic  
20 year before the 2009-2010 academic year is covered by the law in  
21 effect when the grant was awarded, and that law is continued in  
22 effect for that purpose.

23           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 4476 was passed by the House on April 28, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 3, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 4476 on May 14, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 4476 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 12, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor